

$$N(4, 4; 3) \geq 13$$

JOHN R. ISBELL

*Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio 44106**Communicated by Gian-Carlo Rota*

Received September 25, 1968

This note concerns the Ramsey number  $N(4, 4; 3)$ , defined as the least  $n$  such that for every binary partition  $A \cup B$  of the  $\binom{n}{3}$  unordered triples in an  $n$ -element set,  $A$  or  $B$  must contain all four triples in some quadruple. It will be shown that  $N(4, 4; 3) > 12$ . The fact that  $N(4, 4; 3) > 11$  is in J. G. Kalbfleisch's 1966 doctoral thesis at the University of Waterloo.  $N(4, 4; 3) \leq 19$  by a straightforward application of Greenwood and Gleason's evaluation  $N(4, 4; 2) = 18$ , *Canad. J. Math.* 7 (1955), 1-7 (given by A. Sobczyk, *ibid.* 20 (1968), 520-534).

Consider a set  $S = T \times Z_4$ , where  $T$  is a 3-element set. The 220 triples in  $S$  form 48 orbits under the action of the symmetric group  $\Sigma$  on the set  $T$  of first coordinates. We index these orbits by 12 letters and 4 subscripts,  $A_0, \dots, L_3$ . Putting  $T = \{x, y, z\}$ , we list representatives of  $A_0, B_0, \dots, L_0$ ; subscripts shift by translation of  $Z_4$ . In  $A_0$  is  $T \times \{0\}$ ; in  $B_0$   $\{(x, 0), (y, 0), (x, 1)\}$ . Omitting needless punctuation, in  $C_0$  is  $(x0)(y0)(z1)$ , in  $D_0$   $(x0)(y0)(x2)$ , in  $E_0$   $(x0)(y0)(z2)$ , in  $F_0$   $(x0)(x1)(y1)$ , in  $G_0$   $(x0)(y1)(z1)$ , in  $H_0$   $(x0)(x1)(x2)$ , in  $I_0$   $(x0)(x1)(y2)$ , in  $J_0$   $(x0)(y1)(x2)$ , in  $K_0$   $(x0)(y1)(y2)$ , in  $L_0$   $(x0)(y1)(z2)$ .

One member of the partition is the union of the orbits

$A_0, A_2, C_0, C_1, C_2, C_3, D_2, D_3, E_1, E_3, F_0, F_1, F_2, F_3, H_1, H_2, I_0, I_2, J_1, J_2, K_0, K_2, L_1$ , and  $L_3$ .

Of course the verification is not printed here. The 495 quadruples in  $S$  fall into 98 orbits under  $\Sigma \times Z_4$ .